

## EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, ST ANDREWS ROAD, EXMOUTH, ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.15PM

**PRESENT:** Councillors: S Gazzard (Chairman)  
B Bailey (Vice Chairman)  
J Humphreys M Rosser  
A Toye B Toye  
F Cullis A Bailey  
T Dumper F Caygill  
P Stott I Kirvan  
J Whipps T Woodward  
O Davey P Millar

Devon County Councillors: R Scott and J Trail

**OFFICERS:** Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk and Chetna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Nicholas, A Colman, M Chapman, B De Saram, D Poor, L Elson, A Sadiq, J Whibley and County Councillor C Channon

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

The Chairman sought, and it was agreed, to consider the reports from the County Councillors prior to the reports from District Councillors.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** There were no questions from members of the public.

#### **C19/128. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor B Bailey, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be approved.

The minutes of the meeting (previously circulated) were received and signed as a true record.

#### **C19/129. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

#### **C19/130. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations were made.

Item	Councillor	Declaration type		Reason
		Pecuniary	Personal	

#### **C19/131. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was one item on the agenda that would be discussed in Part II of the meeting that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**C19/132. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES, OTHER LOCAL BODIES, THE TOWN CLERK / DEPUTY TOWN CLERK as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)**

- **Planning Committee**  
Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor B Toye, and it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted and adopted.**
- **Finance Committee**  
Councillor B Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor J Humphreys, and it was **RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted and adopted.**
- **Town Clerk's Report**  
The Town Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted.

The Town Clerk brought to councillors' attention, correspondence from Lynton Town Council. Lynton Town Council was requesting financial support in its pursuit for a Judicial Review on the decision to be made by the Fire Authority regarding proposed cuts in the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

Concern was raised that the amount of financial support needed was not known and that a decision had not yet been made. It was therefore agreed to note the correspondence.

- **Deputy Clerk's Report**  
The Deputy Clerk's report, which had previously been circulated, was noted.
- **Festival and Events Working Party**  
Councillor J Whipps provided a verbal update from the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and confirmed that the Fayre had been enjoyed by the many that had attended the event. It was considered by some that the fireworks were too late for the younger generation, that the lights used in the lanterns were not very bright and that a designated area should be made available to enable the schools' Christmas Trees to be left in situ for a longer period. Councillor J Whipps confirmed that these concerns and others will be addressed in a wash-up meeting organised in early January 2020.
- **Community Organisations Liaison Panel**  
The notes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, which had been previously circulated, were noted. It was highlighted that the motion within the notes was to be considered in the separate item relating to the review of Public Space Protection Orders for Exmouth.
- **Climate Change TAFF**  
The notes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were noted.

The Town Clerk clarified that the Town Council's Financial Regulations stated that the Town Council did not necessarily have to select the cheapest quote and that other factors can be considered.

- **Plastic Reduction Working Party**

The notes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Dumper confirmed that work continued with the SAS Plastic Free Communities accreditation and progress was being made with on-street recycling and waste collection and the water refilling stations. Councillor M Rosser added that he and the Deputy Town Clerk had met with officers at East Devon District Council to agree a way forward for partnership working to help deliver water bottle refilling points within Exmouth.

The Deputy Town Clerk provided clarification on matters raised in the report which had been circulated with the notes, including reasons for needing water stations, how the proposed partnership would work, and the costs associated with delivering the proposal to provide four water bottle refilling stations.

The two recommendations of the working party were considered and discussed by the Town Councillors prior to a vote being taken.

Councillor M Rosser proposed, seconded by Councillor P Millar, and it was **RESOLVED that the Town Council:**

1. **Contacts East Devon District Council to request that infographics be added alongside on-street general and recycling bins to help the general public understand how they can recycle better when out and about.**
2. **Delivers the water bottle refilling stations project by**
  - **applying for funding contribution from South West Water**
  - **setting aside funds up to £12,000 from Town Maintenance Partnership to deliver four water bottle refilling stations using existing EDDC water supplies by Easter 2020**
  - **giving delegated authority to the working party to agree the exact locations with EDDC's agreement**

- **WEB Health and Wellbeing**

Minutes of the WEB Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and the Board's decision to invite Councillor D Poor to be a full member were noted.

- **Local Action Group**

The minutes of the LAG meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were noted. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that she had highlighted to the Community Safety Officer at East Devon District Council that the notes needed amending to reflect that the Town Council were not responsible for the current CCTV system, and that the recording system was not currently located in the Town Clerk's office.

- **County Councillors' Reports**

Councillor J Trail confirmed that that the bus stop area by the Parade had recently been resurfaced and that Traffic Orders relating to Exmouth had been approved by HATOC, including the lengthening of the bus stop outside Greggs on the Parade. This work is likely to be delivered by the end of the current financial year.

Councillor J Trail added that the existing yellow lines will be reviewed to enable more parking to be generated. Councillor R Scott advised that any comments should be received by 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

Issues relating to Marley Road were in hand.

Councillor R Scott confirmed that there was some confusion at a recent COLP meeting regarding contacting county councillors on Highway issues. Councillor R Scott clarified that the county councillors for Exmouth can be contacted and they will endeavour to help where they can, but their first question will be to ask if the issue had been reported via Devon County Council's website or customer services.

Councillor R Scott attended the demonstration of a weed ripping machine organised by the Deputy Town Clerk and urged the Town Council to support the purchasing of this useful piece of equipment.

The County Council has much going on at the moment and Councillor R Scott confirmed he has sent various correspondence to the Town Clerk on these matters and urged councillors to get involved.

Both County Councillors wished all Town Councillors a merry Christmas and restful break.

During question time, concern was raised about taking away double yellow lines as it was most likely that these may cause safety and traffic flow issues. Councillor R Scott confirmed it was carefully thought out and that the County Council were seeking views on yellow lines in non-controversial areas where circumstances may have changed.

Concern was also raised regarding Highways responding to planning applications where there are potentially parking issues. Councillor J Trail confirmed that both he and Councillor R Scott were in regular contact with planning officers at Devon County Council and with major developments, they were moving towards all councils working together to benefit the community as a whole.

On behalf of Exmouth Town Council, the Chairman wished the County Councillors a merry Christmas.

*Councillor R Scott left the meeting.*

- **District Councillors' Reports**

District Councillors gave brief reports in their areas of responsibility.

Councillor O Davey confirmed that he had attended a Development Management Committee site meeting at a property in the Avenues. Despite some members feeling it was an overdevelopment of the area and was in danger of setting a precedent contrary to the Avenues design and access statement, it was approved by the planning officers. However, the planning application relating to the installation of a Gas Generator was not approved as it was not considered a back-up for renewable energy.

Councillor P Millar confirmed he had attended an Overview meeting where there was an important report on poverty, a lot of which was relevant for Exmouth. A recommendation to continue financially supporting Citizens Advice was approved.

Councillor P Millar informed members that Exmouth Football Club were collecting donations for Exmouth's food bank and urged councillors to attend with donation.

**C19/133. TASK AND FINISH FORUM TO REVIEW THE AREAS CURRENTLY FORMING PART OF THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AND VERGE GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS WITH EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Councillor P Millar proposed, seconded by Councillor I Kirvan, and it was **RESOLVED** that a task and finish forum be set up, consisting of Councillor F Cullis (Withycombe), Councillor O Davey (Town), Councillor I Kirvan (Brixington), Councillor J Whipps (Littleham) and Councillor T Woodward (Halsdon) to review the areas currently forming part of the Grounds Maintenance and Verge Grass Cutting contracts with East Devon District Council.

The TAFF will aim to report its recommendations to the Town Council at its February meeting to give sufficient time to agree any contract changes for the next financial year.

**C19/134. REPORT IN RESPECT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE TAFF**

Concern was raised that as this was an important matter it should be debated extensively when more councillors were present.

Councillor J Humphreys proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, that the Town Council defers this matter until such time that a full debate had taken place with all councillors present. A vote was taken on this proposal, with five in favour and 8 against, resulting in the motion not being approved

Councillor T Dumper proposed, seconded by Councillor P Millar, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council proceeds with the recommendations as below:

1. That Exmouth Town Council creates a Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party, which will incorporate the current Plastic Reduction Working Party (terms of reference and membership to be determined separately). Recognising the importance of the Plastics Reduction Working Party so far, meetings of the new Working Party would include a dedicated part of the agenda for plastics issues;
2. That an external auditor is appointed to calculate the Town Council's carbon footprint and conduct a review of Exmouth Town Council's procurement policy and business processes with a view to identifying improvements @ £400;
3. That Exmouth Town Council endorses and prioritises the ten action points received from Transition Exmouth's Our Exmouth, Our Planet meeting;
4. That Exmouth Town Council allocates an initial budget of £2,500 to Climate Change initiatives which will be delivered via partnership with Transition Exmouth;
5. That coordination with, and lobbying of, other bodies, including Government, County and District Councils and others, as appropriate, be formally recognised as a legitimate and effective way of the Council conducting business in this vital, urgent area.

Councillor P Millar requested that the Town Council continues with an Extra-Ordinary meeting to debate the matter, agree the terms of reference and the membership of the new working party. The Town Clerk confirmed that this can be arranged in the New Year.

The Deputy Clerk reminded members that the Plastic Reduction working party will continue with its work until the new group has been established to ensure momentum is not lost.

**C19/135. REVIEW THE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS – CONTROL OF DOGS FOR EXMOUTH AND CONSIDER THE MOTION PROPOSED BY COLP (THAT THE BEACH DOG BAN AREAS BE EXTENDED TO LOW TIDE, REMOVING THE CURRENT LOOPHOLE)**

Councillor M Rosser proposed, seconded by Councillor J Whipps, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supports the motion proposed by COLP and requests that East Devon District Council extends the Beach dog ban area to low tide, thereby removing the current loophole.

**C19/136. BEACH WHEELCHAIR PROJECT SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING**

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor I Kirvan, and it was **RESOLVED** that that the Town Council uses funds held in reserve to supplement the Beach Wheelchair project in meeting 25% of its target fund, thereby ensuring that it qualifies to receive additional funding available from East Devon District Council, Devon County Council and the Police Crime Commissioner.

**C19/137. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Future dates of meetings for Town Council, Committees and Working Parties were noted.

*Members of the public and Press left the meeting.*

**PART B of the meeting.**

**C19/138. HR Group Update**

The notes of the HR Group meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019, including decisions therein, were ratified.

**C19/139. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.15pm at the Town Hall Council Chamber.

**The meeting concluded at 8.46pm.**

Signed..... Date.....  
(Chairman)